

## Report Illicit Discharges

To report an illicit discharge to our streams or stormwater inlets call (760) 725-9760. If the discharge involves a spill call the MCB Camp Pendleton Spill Hotline: (760) 725-9743.

### What is an illicit discharge?

An illicit discharge is an unlawful act of disposing, dumping, spilling, emitting, or other discharge of any substance other than stormwater into the stormwater drainage system. The stormwater drainage system includes any street, catch basin, junction box, trench drain, swale, spillway, ditch, culvert, detention basin, roof drain, channel, inlet, wetland, lake, and stream.

Below are some examples of illicit discharges:

- Paint being poured into or near the storm drainage system
- Changing oil or antifreeze over or near a storm structure
- Washing motor pool vehicles where the runoff could drain into the storm drainage system
- Washing dumpster pads and allowing the runoff to drain into the storm drainage system
- Discharging swimming pool water directly into the storm drain system without dechlorinating the water
- Discharging swimming pool water backwash (containing bacteria, sediment, chlorine, etc.)

### Is yard waste considered an illicit discharge?

Large amounts of yard waste can actually become harmful to our streams and creeks. Dumping yard waste into the storm drainage system can be considered a violation of the California Phase 2 Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit.

### Is putting trash in the creek considered an illicit discharge?

Dumping trash or debris in a creek or any stormwater conveyance system is considered an illicit discharge.

## Is swimming pool water considered an illicit discharge?

If the swimming pool water has chlorine in it, then that water can be extremely harmful to aquatic life. Discharging chlorinated pool water is considered an illicit discharge.

Discharges from swimming pools can be directed to the storm drain, provided the water does not have a harmful impact on the environment. Therefore, pool water must be dechlorinated and tested for chlorine prior to discharge to the storm drain system.

## Are there some discharges that aren't "illicit discharges"?

There are some exceptions to the discharge restrictions, described below:

- Air conditioning condensate
- Fire-fighting water runoff created during a fire emergency
- Incidental runoff from landscape irrigation
- Discharges from potable water sources
- Groundwater discharges from sump pumps
- Water line flushing
- Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
- Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges
- Diverted stream flows

## What is an illicit connection?

An illicit connection is an unlawful connection from the sanitary system into the stormwater drainage system or directly into lakes and streams. Below are some examples of illicit connections:

- Floor drains from inside a building going into the storm drain system instead of the sanitary sewer system
- Installing a new plumbing line from a toilet into a stormwater drainage structure instead of the sanitary sewer system
- Connection of a washrack or oil water separator overflow line to the storm drain system

## What information should be reported when calling in an illicit discharge?

1. **What time did you see the discharge?**

It is important that illicit discharges are reported immediately so the person(s) responsible can be found and the discharge can be cleaned up and corrected as soon as possible.

2. **Where did you see the discharge?**

Please give an address, intersection, business name, building number or landmark to help ES quickly find the illicit discharge.

3. **What do you think the discharge is?**

Please let ES know if you think it was an oil spill, sewer leak, or another type of illicit discharge.

4. **Was there a business involved?**

Please tell ES the name of the business involved to help ES eliminate the discharge as quickly as possible and provide enforcement action when needed.